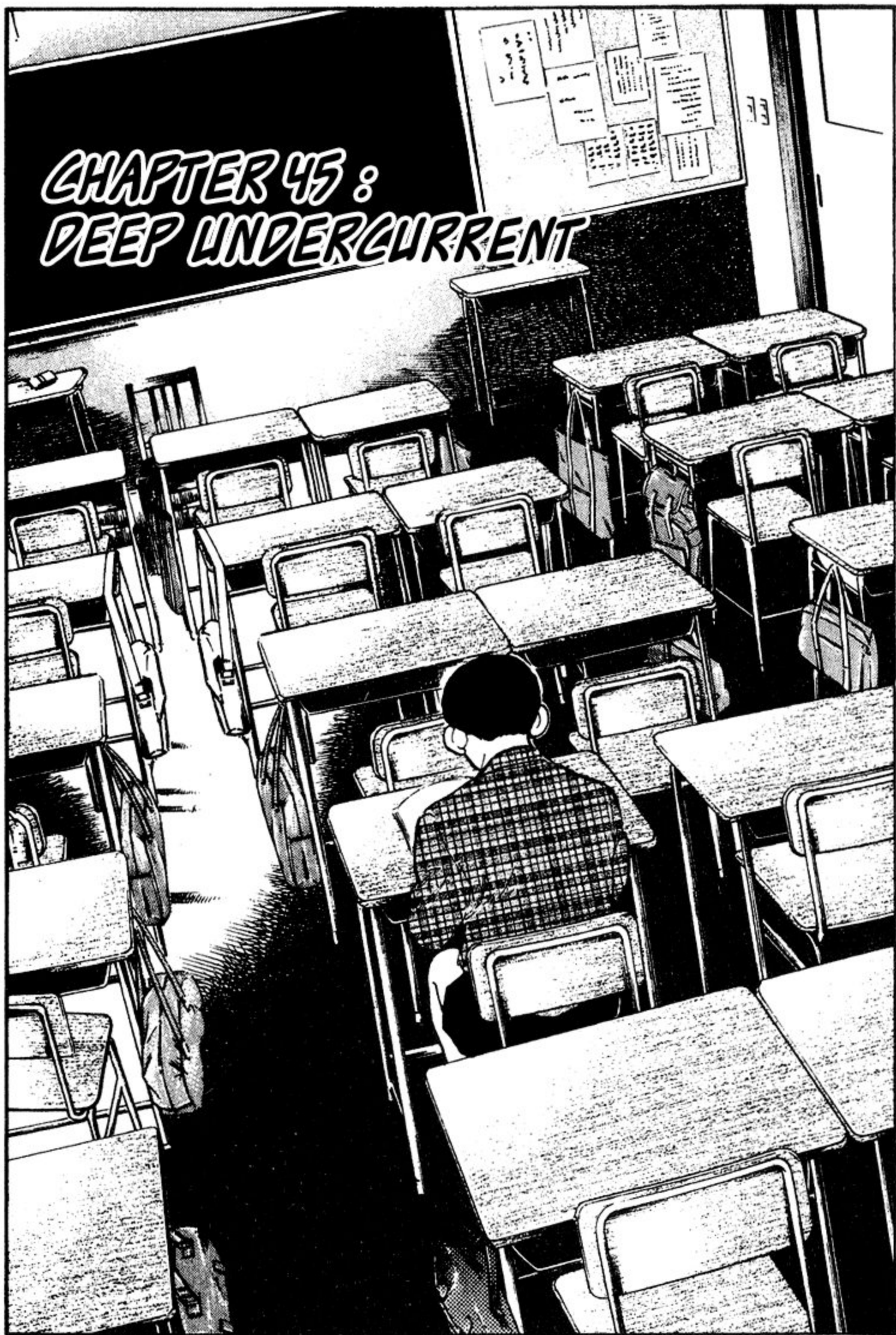


CHAPTER 45 : DEEP UNDERCURRENT







TAKAAKI
KAKINUMA

...



YES!





DO YOU REMEMBER SOMETHING SPECIAL?





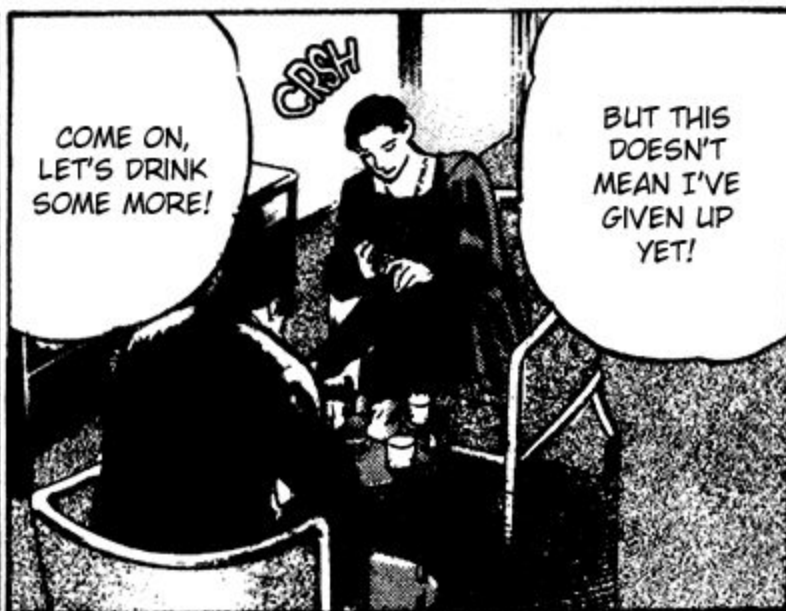


BUT I
HAVE NO
IDEA WHY
HE HATES
YOU THAT
MUCH!

I'M 100%
SURE DOJIMA
AND TAKAAKI
ARE THE SAME
PERSON...



I SEARCHED
MY MEMORY TO SEE
IF I COULD REMEMBER
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE
SIX MONTHS AFTER
TAKAAKI'S ARRIVAL.



COME ON,
LET'S DRINK
SOME MORE!

BUT THIS
DOESN'T
MEAN I'VE
GIVEN UP
YET!



ALCOHOL WILL
CLARIFY OUR
THOUGHTS, AND
THEN WE'LL TRY TO
FIND THE REASONS
BEHIND THIS PSYCHO-
LOGICAL THRILLER!

AT THE END
OF PRIMARY
SCHOOL, YOU
ENROLLED
IN A PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
...

WHEREAS
HE ENTERED A
PRIVATE HIGH
SCHOOL THAT
SPECIALIZED IN
EDUCATING THE
FUTURE STU-
DENTS OF
TOKYO
UNIVERSITY...



NO!

DID YOU
MEET HIM
AFTER-
WARDS?



SINCE THEN,
I DIDN'T HEAR
ANYTHING
ABOUT HIM
ANYMORE!

I QUIT
MY JOB THE
YEAR AFTER
DUE TO SEVER-
AL PROBLEMS,
LIKE MY DI-
VORCE...



I'M
SURE
THAT'S
NOT THE
CASE!



MAYBE
SOMEONE
TOLD YOU
ABOUT HIM,
OR YOU
COULD'VE
MET HIM
IN THE
STREET
...?



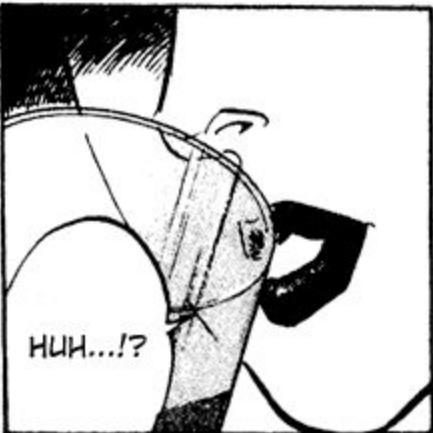




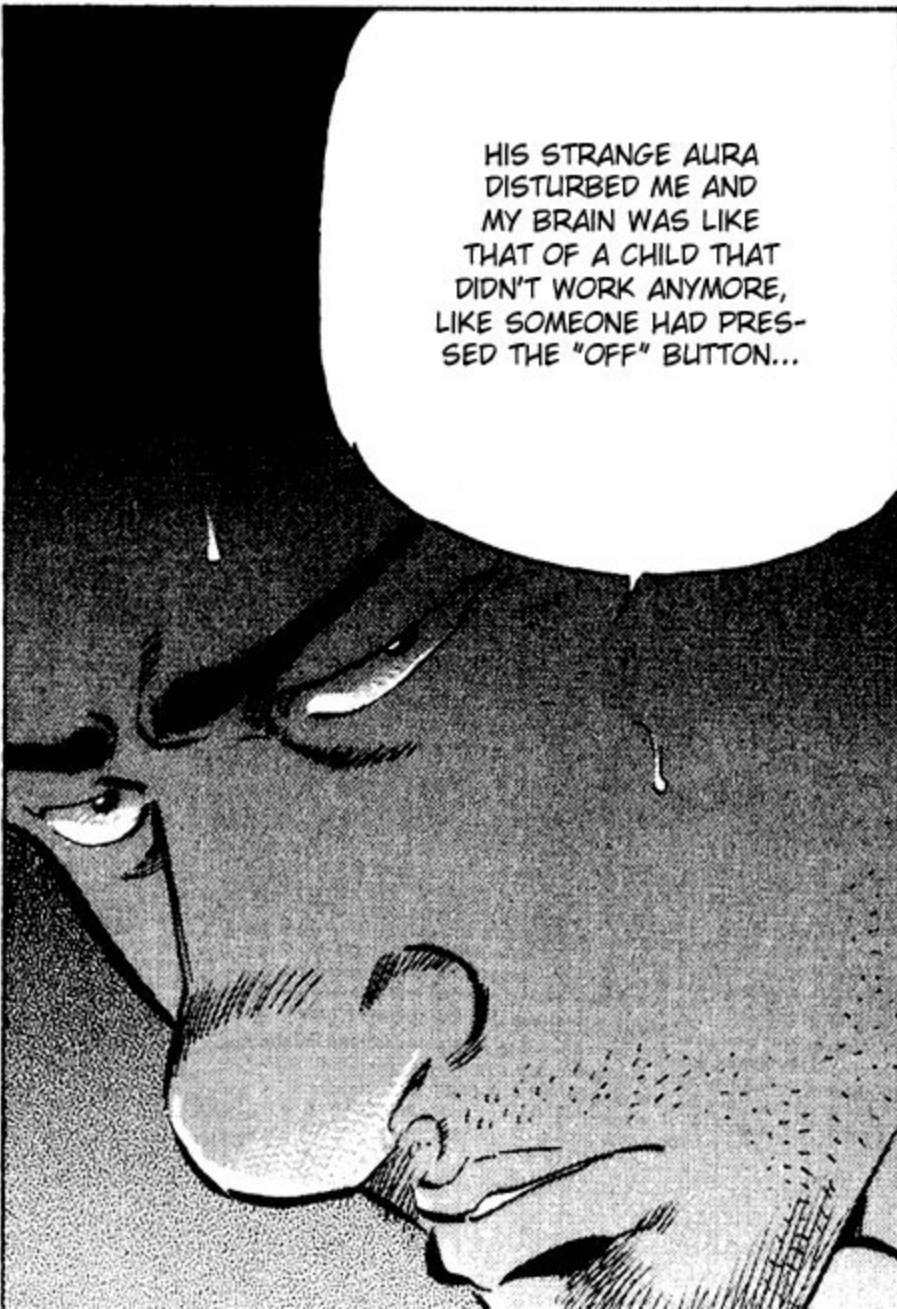
AT THAT TIME, I
ALWAYS TRIED NOT
TO THINK ABOUT
HIM, BUT...



...I
REMEMBER
SOMETHING!



HUH...!?



HIS STRANGE AURA
DISTURBED ME AND
MY BRAIN WAS LIKE
THAT OF A CHILD THAT
DIDN'T WORK ANYMORE,
LIKE SOMEONE HAD PRES-
SED THE "OFF" BUTTON...



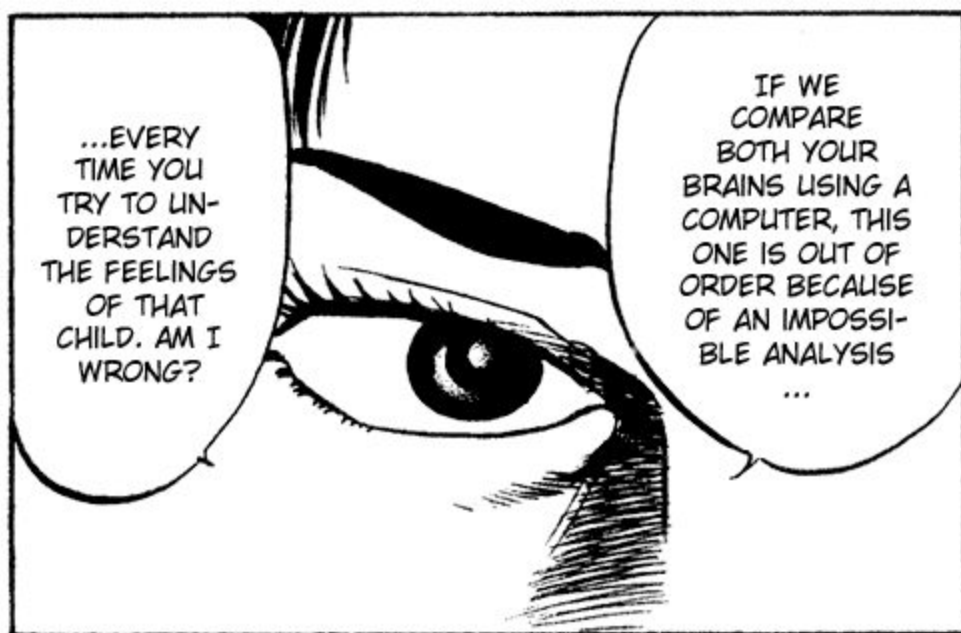
EXPLAIN
YOURSELF
...



WITH HAT-
RED
OR
ANYTHING
LIKE
THAT
...

IT HAS
NOTHING
TO DO...







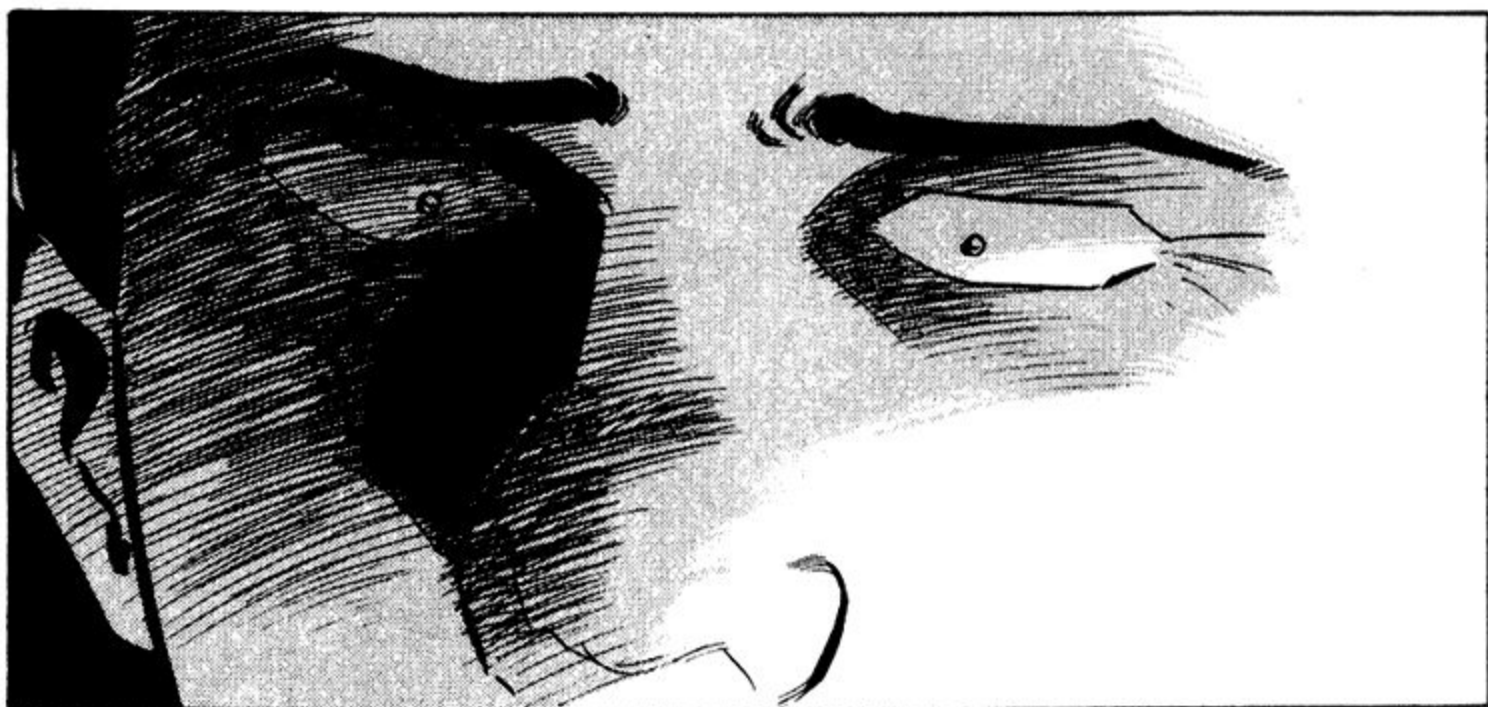
WHEREAS
ALL THE OTHER PU-
PILS WERE KEEP- ING
THEMSELVES
OUT OF TAKAAKI'S
WAY BECAUSE THEY
DIDN'T LIKE HIS
OBSCURE AURA

...

YOU WERE
THE ONLY ONE
WHO CARED THAT
TAKAAKI KAKINUMA
EXISTED!



YOU MUST
HAVE LOCKED
THIS MEMORY DEEP
INSIDE YOU IF YOU
COULDN'T REMEMBER
IT TONIGHT!





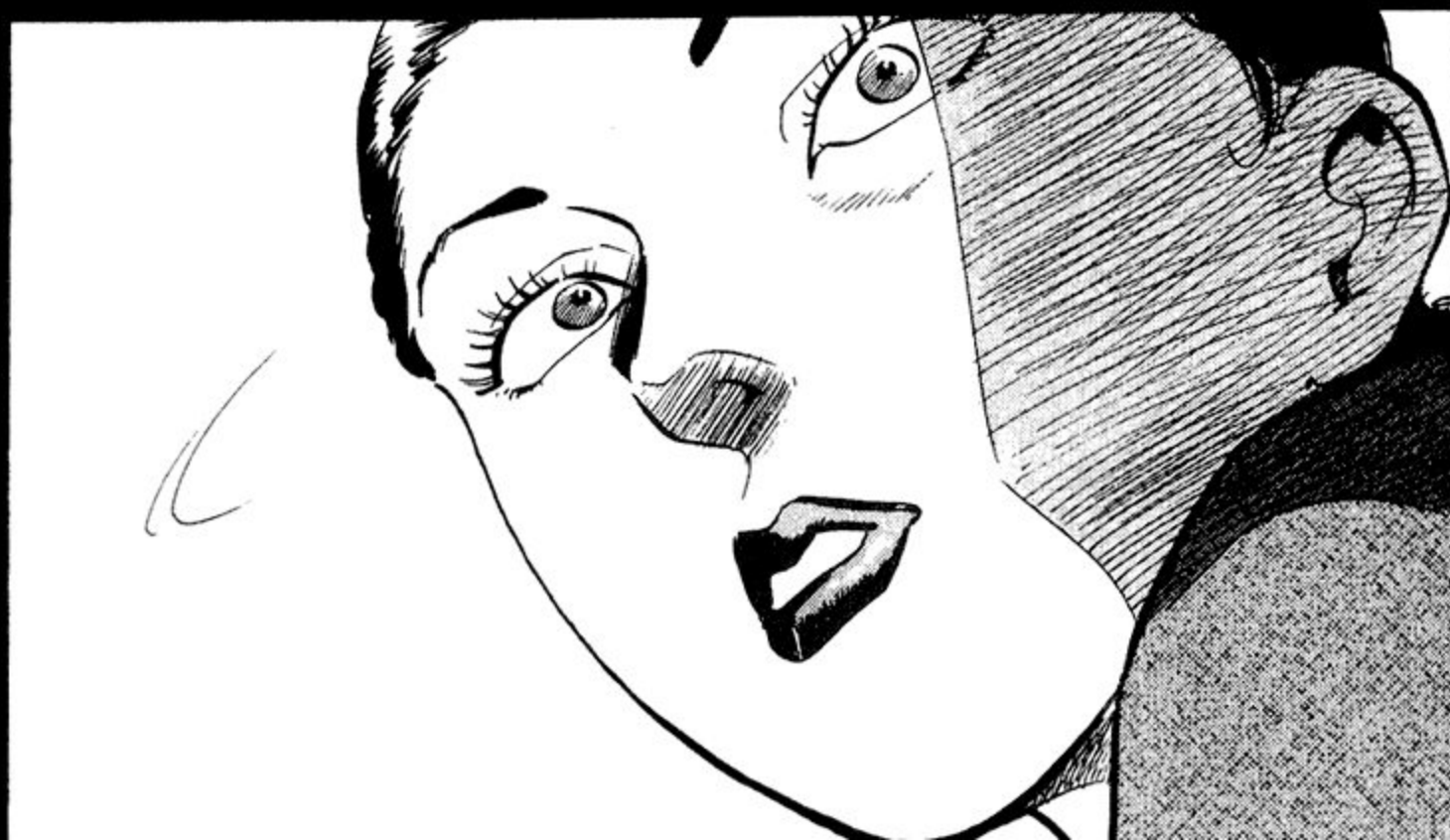
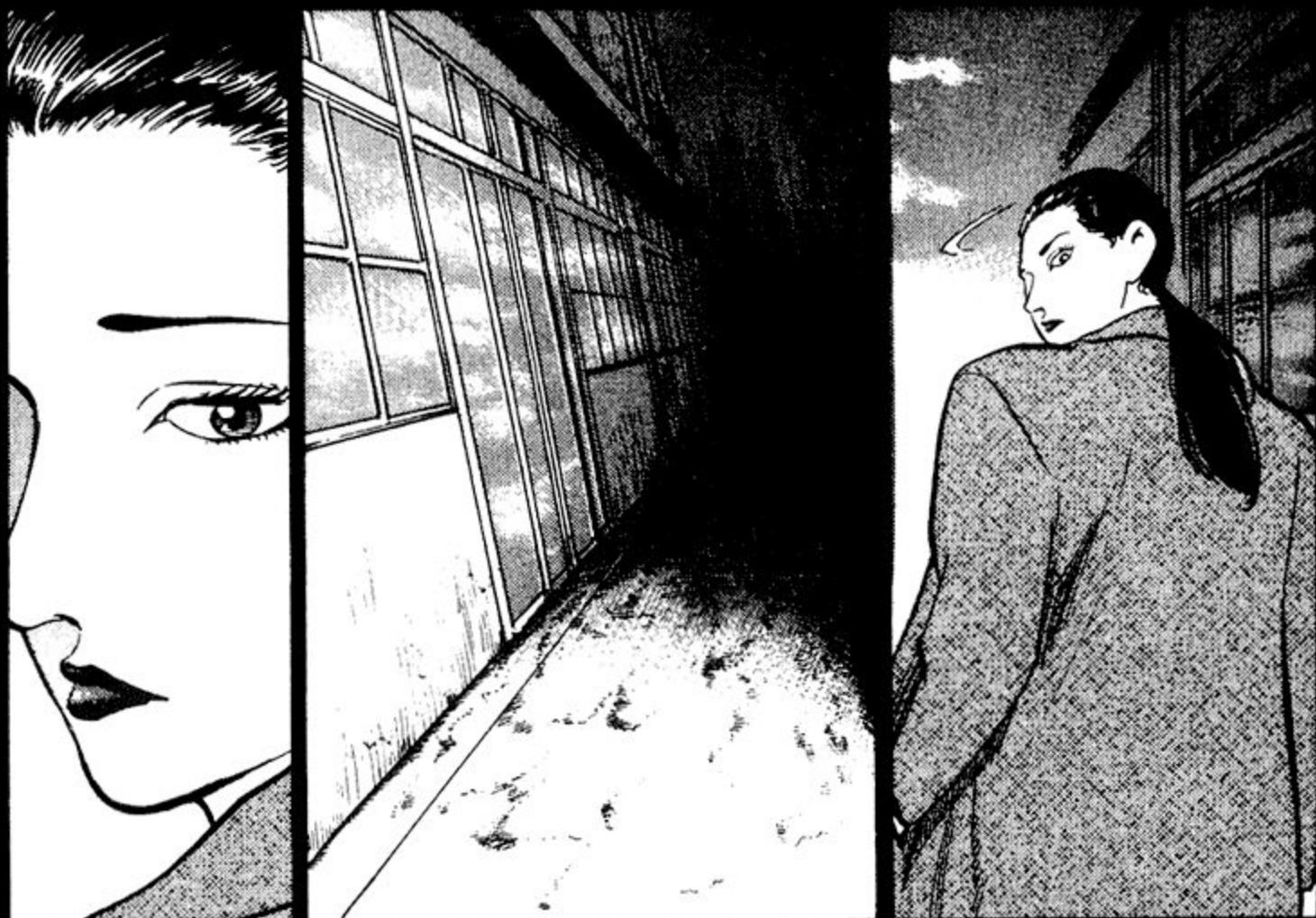
MAY I TELL
YOU SOME-
THING?



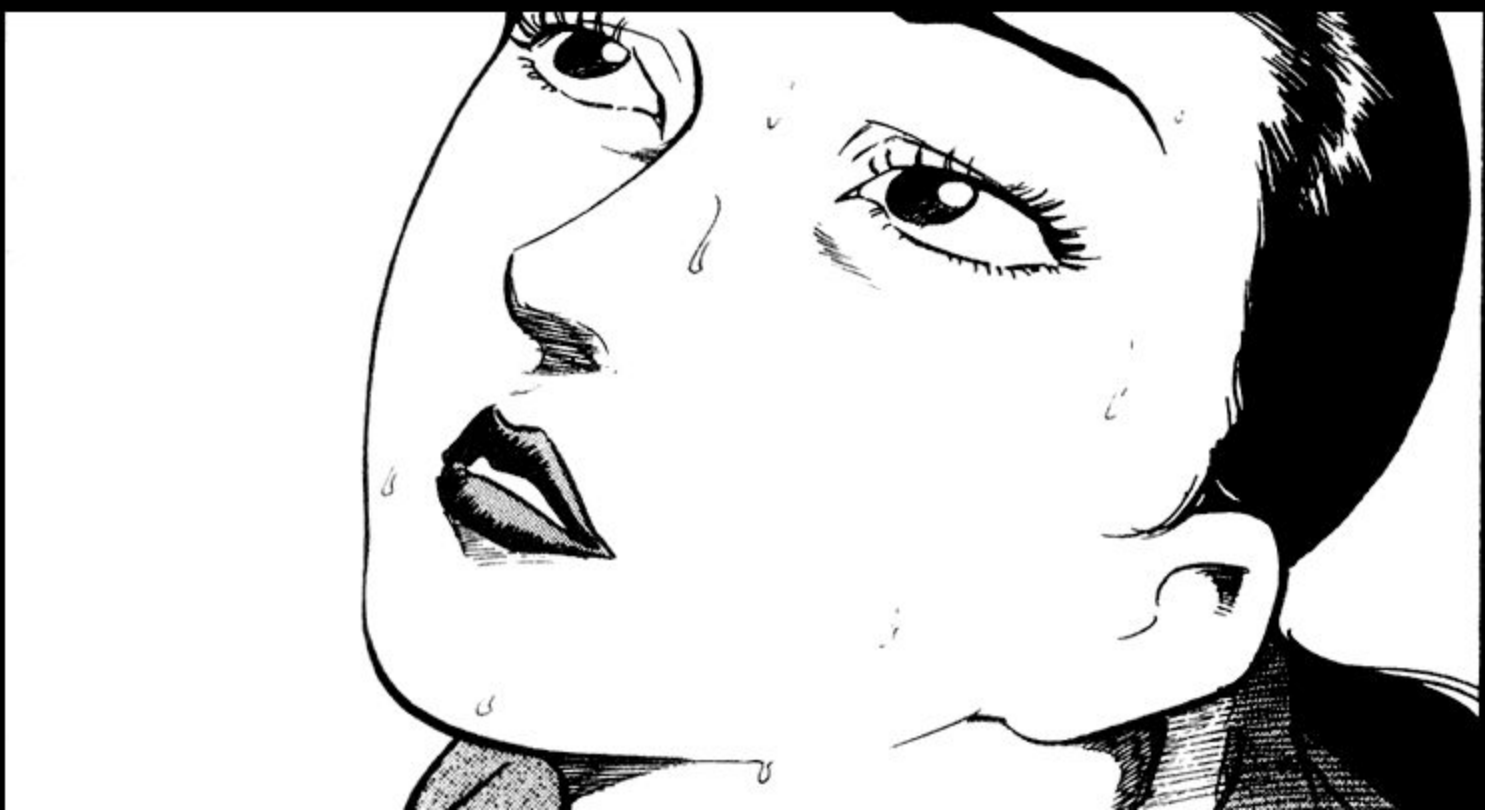
IT HAPPENED IN
DECEMBER, THE YEAR I
WAS YOUR TEACHER...











I HAVE
NO PROOF
THAT IT
WAS HIM
...

BUT I'M
CONVINCED THAT
IT WAS!

